

Application of computational models in Next Generation Risk Assessment activities at Unilever

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Unilever

Outline

- Introduction
- Computational models applied in NGRA in Unilever
 - Physiologically Based Kinetic (PBK) modelling
 - Dose Response Modelling
 - High Throughput Transcriptomics (HTTr) Dose response analysis
 - Bayesian Method
 - Expert Knowledge Elicitation
- An example
- Summary and discussion

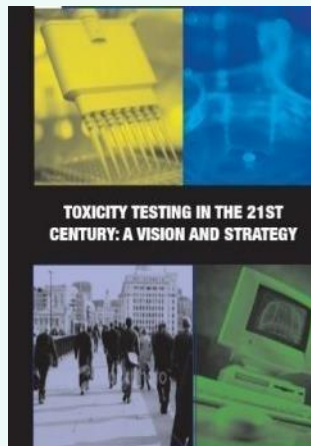
Can we use a new ingredient safely and how do we know?

Can we safely use x% of ingredient y in product z?



NGRA is defined as an exposure-led, hypothesis-driven risk assessment approach that integrates New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to assure safety without the use of animal testing

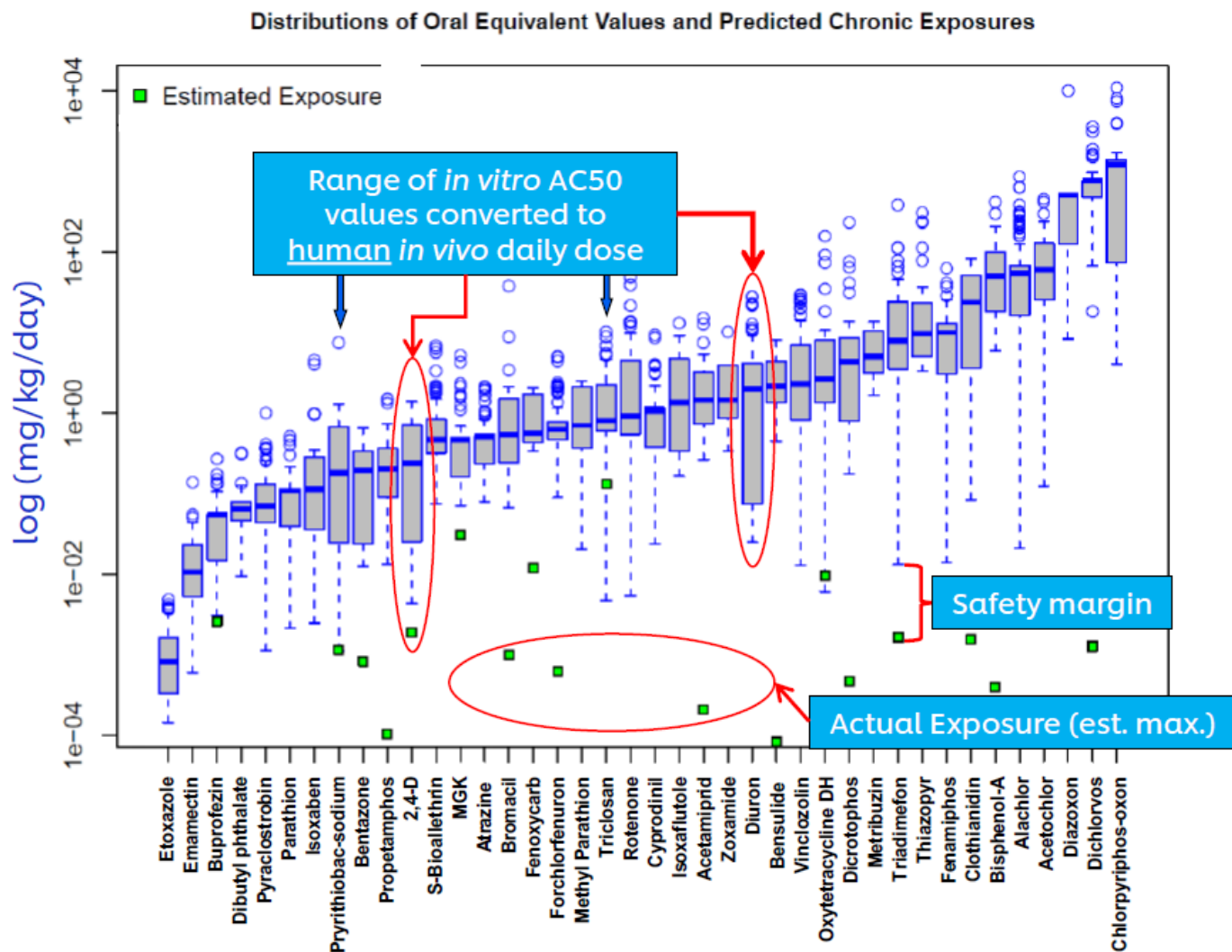
We address the above question using Next Generation Risk Assessment



We say use science.
Not animals.



NGRA: Protection not Prediction



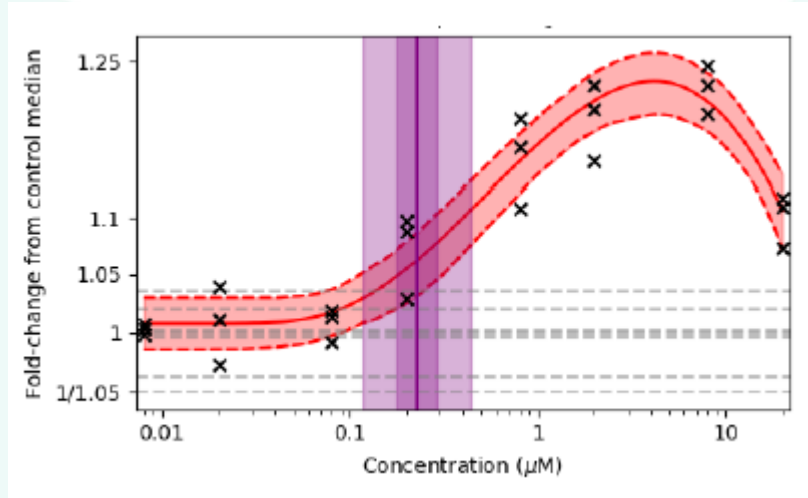
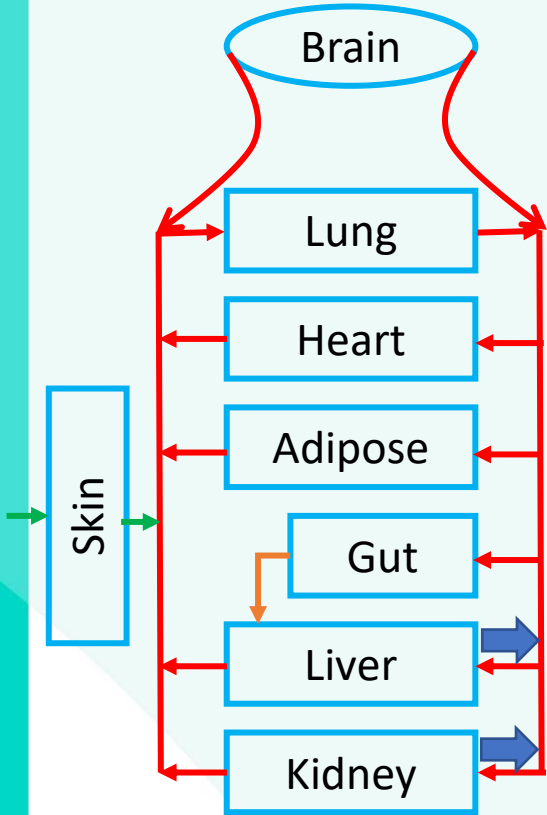
The hypothesis underpinning this NGRA is that if no bioactivity is observed at consumer-relevant concentrations, there can be no adverse health effects.

At no point does NGRA attempt to predict the results of high dose toxicology studies in animals

NGRA uses new exposure science and understanding of human biology



Computational models in NGRA – some examples



QSAR TOOLBOX

The OECD QSAR Toolbox for Grouping Chemicals into Categories

Bayesian Statistics

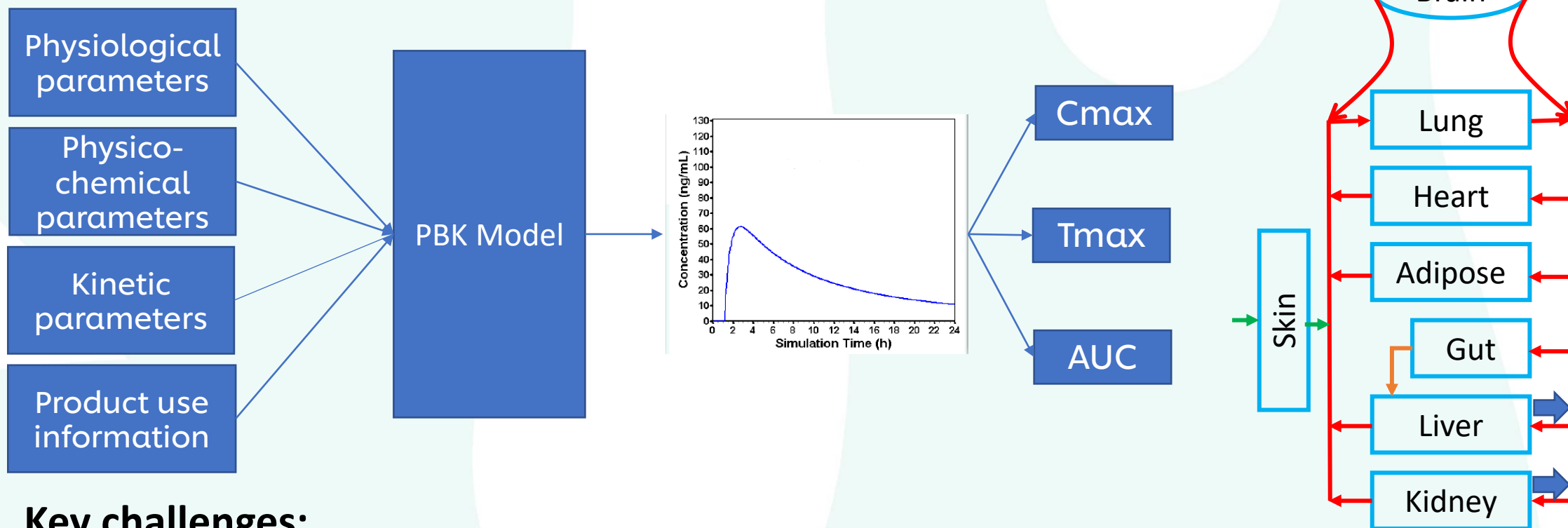
$$P(\theta | \text{Data}) \propto P(\theta) * P(\text{Data} | \theta)$$



Computational models 1- Physiologically Based Kinetic (PBK) modelling

Aim:

According to ADME properties of a certain chemical, predict its concentration in different organs/tissues in human body after exposure to the chemical via different exposure route, e.g., oral, skin and inhalation



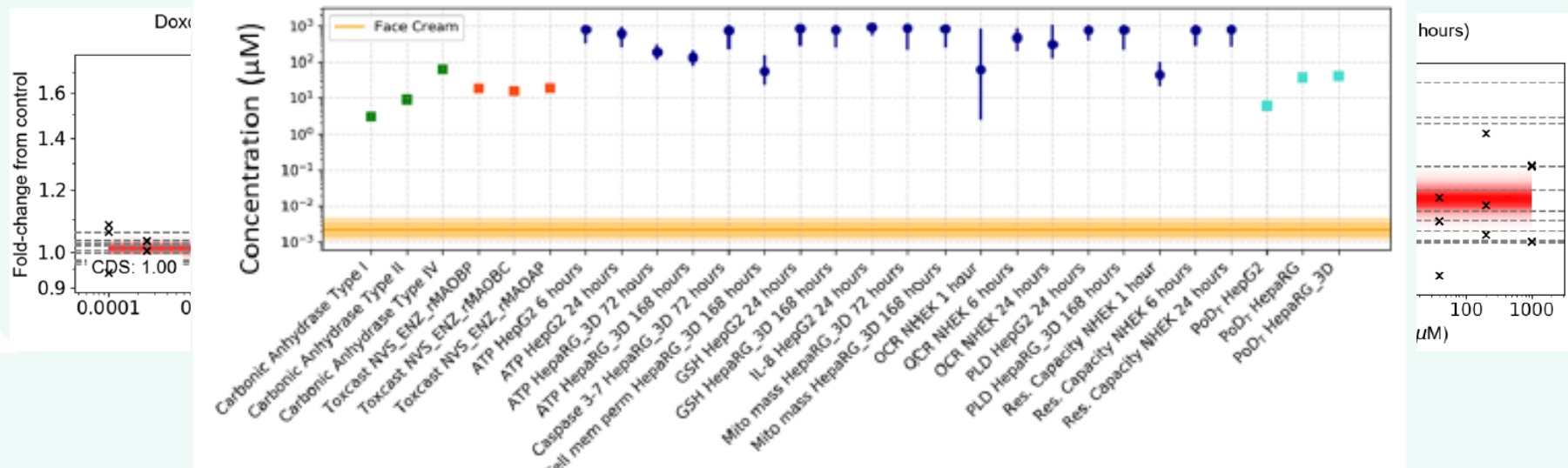
Key challenges:

- Understanding ADME mechanism
- Parameterisation

Computational models 2 - Dose Response Modelling

Aim:

- Using the dose and response data from a certain in vitro assay to derive a Point of Departure (PoD) regarding a certain biomarker after exposure to a certain chemical.
- By combining PoDs from different assays regarding different biomarkers, the overall bioactivity of the chemical can be described, which is then compared with exposure derived from PBK modelling, so that a safety decision can be informed.

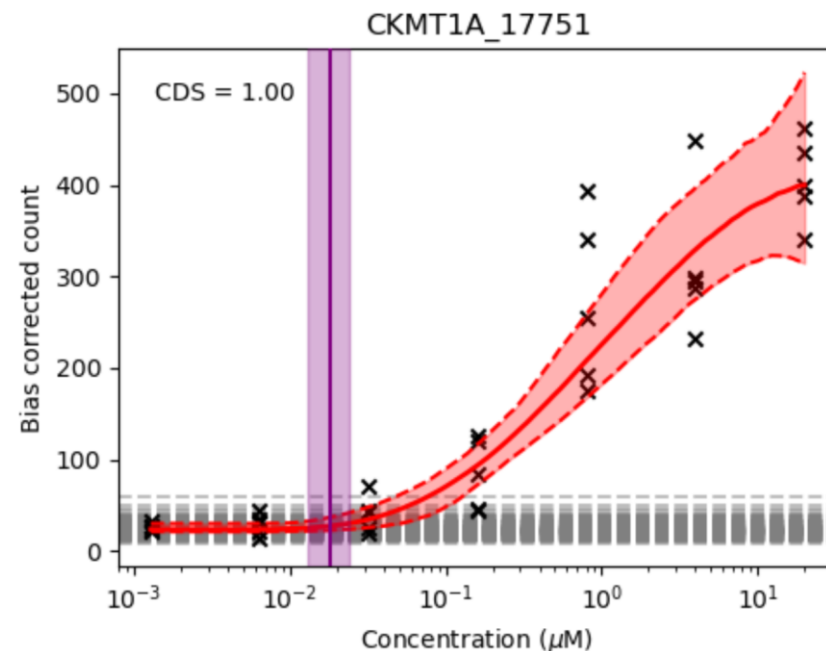
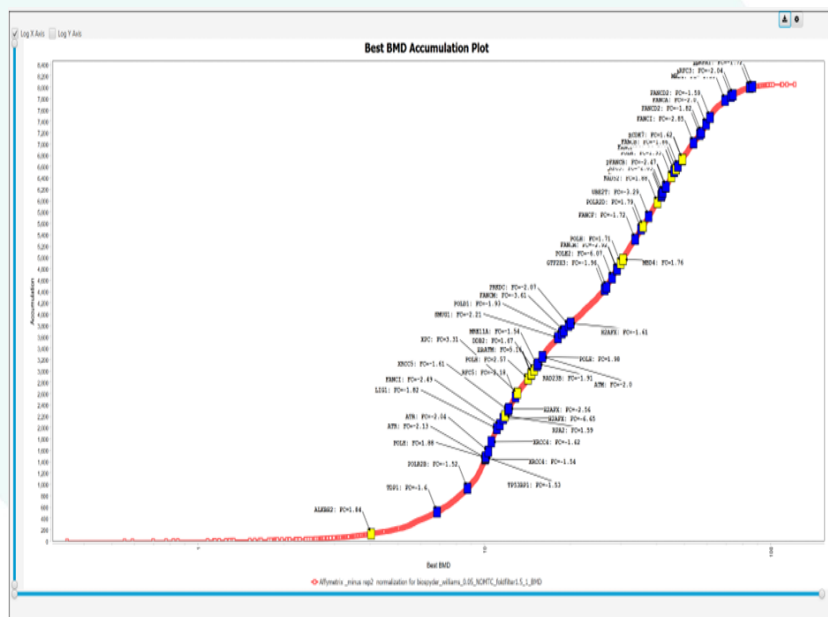


Key challenges:

- Whether there is a response?
- At what dose there is a response?
- Uncertainty

Computational models 3 - High Throughput Transcriptomics (HTTr) Dose response analysis

Aim: based on the gene expression data, provide a broad biological perturbation concentration response measure (POD) and indicate mechanistic information as a hazard characterisation. **Assumption:** there is no adverse effect without gene expression changes



Challenges:

- Multiple parameter thresholds need to be defined that impact on overall analysis and sensitivity, e.g.,
 - depth of sequencing & replicates impact power of experiment
 - No. of cell lines – overall biological coverage
 - fold change/p-value/BMR factor filters, choice of models for dose response, genes vs pathways – a matrix of options with best set(s) still currently being assessed.
- Transparency in sharing complex assay with complex bioinformatic workflows to enable replication. OECD Transcriptomic Reporting Framework (TRF)

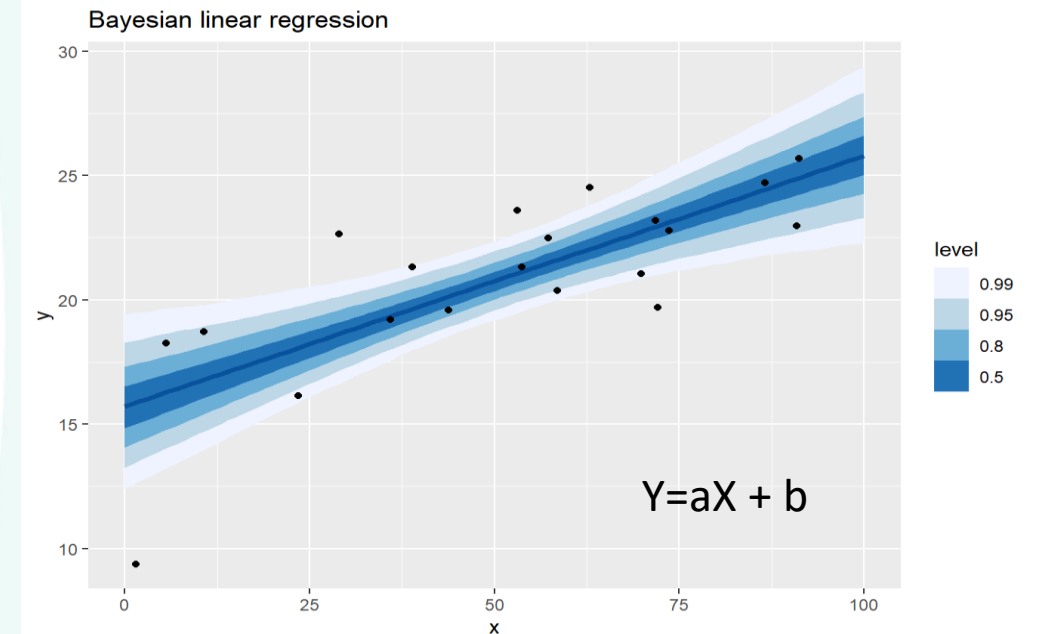
Computational models 4 – Bayesian statistics

Aim:

- Using (newly) observed/available data to update the probability distribution of parameters in a mathematical model based on
 - 1) the prior probability distribution of the parameters before observing the data, and
 - 2) a likelihood function describing how likely the data can be observed given certain values that the parameters take.
- Can be used in many different areas, such as analysing dose response relations.

Bayesian Statistics

$$P(\theta | \text{Data}) \propto P(\theta) * P(\text{Data} | \theta)$$



Key challenges:

- Specify prior distribution of parameters and a likelihood function

Computational models 5 - Expert Knowledge Elicitation

Aim:

- Handling the situation where there is not enough data to adequately inform the risk assessment decision but there is some extent of data and knowledge exist which can be used to inform the decision.
- Elicit experts' knowledge in a way that common cognitive and psychological biases are minimised by following a strict protocol with rational of the experts' judgment explicitly justified and documented.

A MN

Variable under consideration:
 Difference between "Benchmark concentration of quercetin to induce DNA DSB regarding HT1080 cell line in vitro" and the "Benchmark concentration of quercetin in plasma to induce DNA DSB in vivo"

Definitions and unit:
 • DSB: Double Strand Break
 • Unit: μM
 • Concentration: free concentration at steady state

Uncertainty sources:
 • Relevance of HT1080
 - Repair rates
 - Variability of BMD across tissues
 • Free plasma VS free media
 - Transporter in HT1080 same in vitro as in vivo
 - Behaviour of Q with regards to serum
 • Environment difference
 - Oxygen availability
 - Q's metabolites and capacity to cause DSB
 - Stability of Q in vivo and in vitro
 • Exposure scenario:
 - Time profile difference
 - Extrapolation from acute to chronic

Elicited Quantities:
 • Upper Boundary (U): $60 \mu\text{M}$
 • Lower Boundary (L): $1.8 \mu\text{M}$
 • Median (M): $2.5 \mu\text{M}$
 • 1st quartile (Q1): $1.9 \mu\text{M}$
 • 3rd quartile (Q3): $3.3 \mu\text{M}$

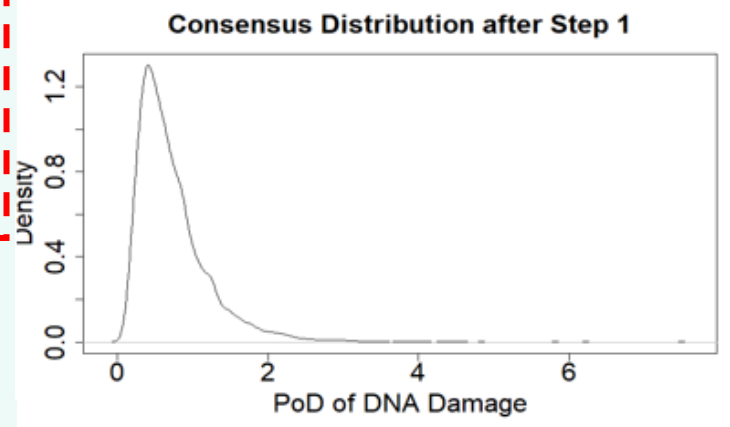
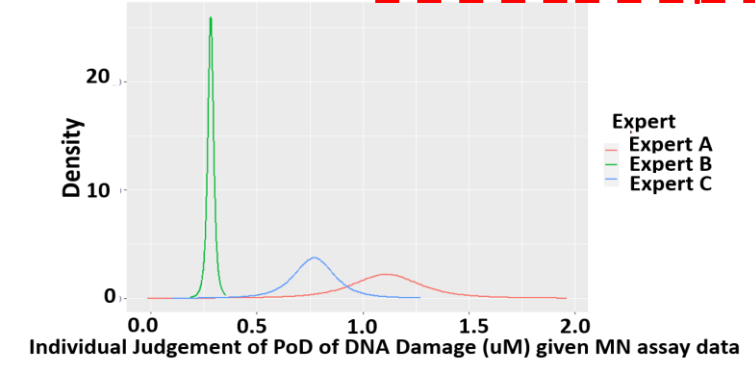
Your Name: *Craig*

10 μM Bandage[®] dose in vitro

fold not taken into account direction totally

5	KSAL10084 The in vitro percutaneous absorption of radiolabelled Quercetin and radiolabelled Quercetin Through Human Skin	KSAL10084.pdf	Human dermal exposed ex vivo skin	Flow-through diffusion cell, time course method		Quercetin penetration into the skin is limited by the outermost layers. Material associated with the epidermis may be located in pockets of stratum corneum sheltered from the tape stripping process.	The study was a GCP compliant study conducted by our preferred in vitro skin absorption study supplier; the data are therefore reliable without restriction (Jirassakuldech score 3).	
5	Lehman, P.A. et al (2011) Percutaneous absorption in man. In vitro-in vivo correlation. Skin Pharmacol Physiol 25: 224-230	Lehman et al 2011	Human in vitro and in vivo	Various		For harmonized data sets the average (IVV) ratio was 0.96 and is a less than 2-fold difference between the in vitro and in vivo results for any one compound, with IVV ratios ranging from 0.58 to 1.28.	Conducted review, compilation of data and analysis thereof.	Thomas Franz (who invented the Franz diffusion cell and is a co-author) has been in this field for 40+ years.
6a	KSAL10083 The in-vitro percutaneous absorption of radiolabelled Quercetin in a skin-tape formula through human skin	KSAL10083.pdf	Human dermal exposed ex vivo skin	Flow-through diffusion cell, standard method		Extrapolation from the lower dose to the higher dose (factor of 3) is exactly proportional for material moving into the receptor fluid.	The study was a GCP compliant study conducted by our preferred in vitro skin absorption study supplier; the data are therefore reliable without restriction (Jirassakuldech score 3).	

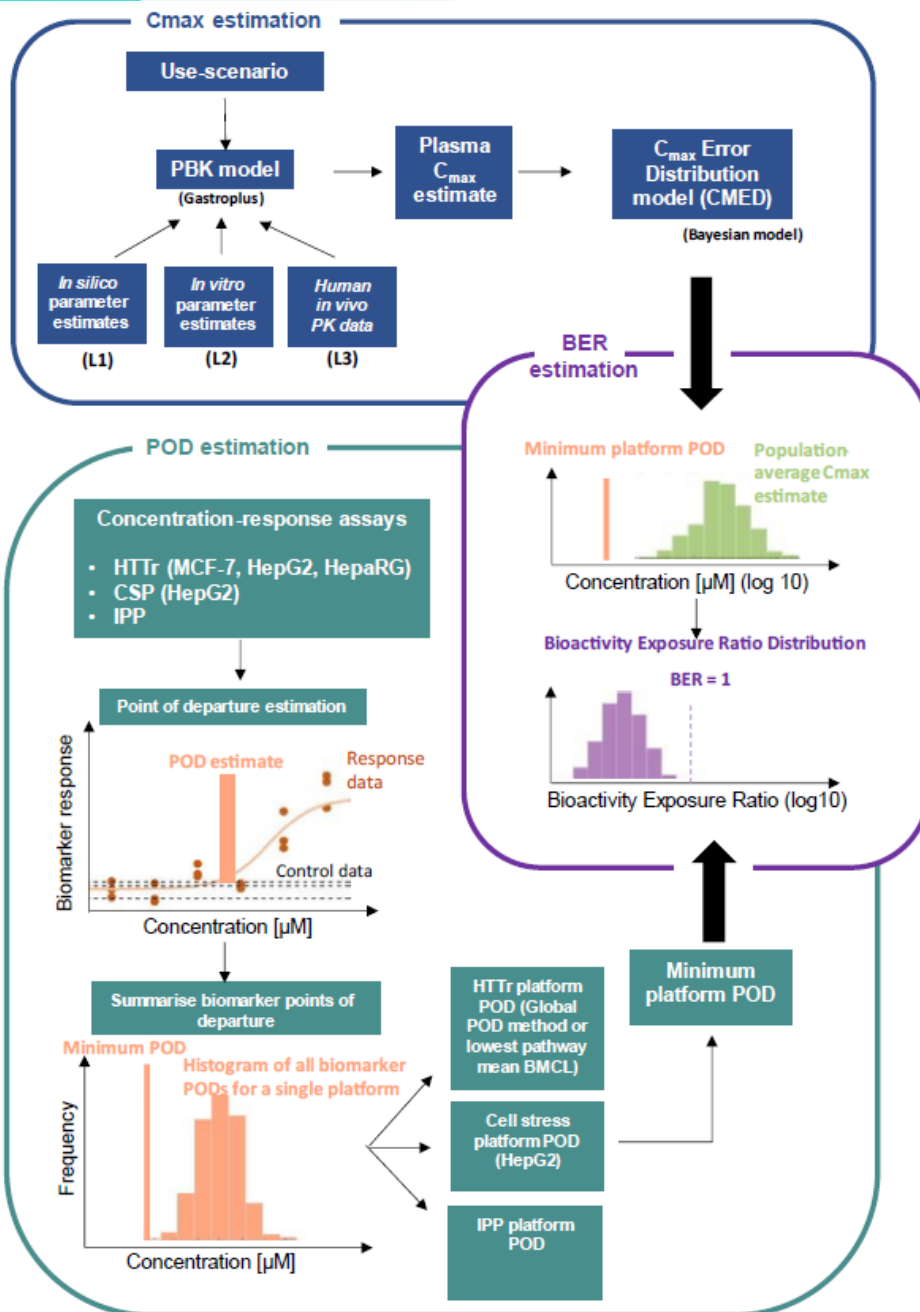
Literature information | **Relevant figure** | **Expert Interpretation**



Key challenges:

- Elicitation process design and facilitation

Example – evaluating protectiveness of safety assessment using non animal methods



Estimating the internal exposure of a chemical based on a given use-case scenario, using 3 different levels of information:

- In silico informed parameters only
- + some in vitro informed parameters
- + some in vivo informed parameters



Outputs from these modules are combined in the third module to estimate the Bioactivity Exposure Ratio (BER)

Estimating the various Points of Departure (PODs) based on *in vitro* bioactivity data using three of the *in vitro* bioactivity platforms

- High-throughput transcriptomics
- A cell stress panel
- *In vitro* pharmacological profiling

Example - evaluating protectiveness of safety assessment using non animal methods

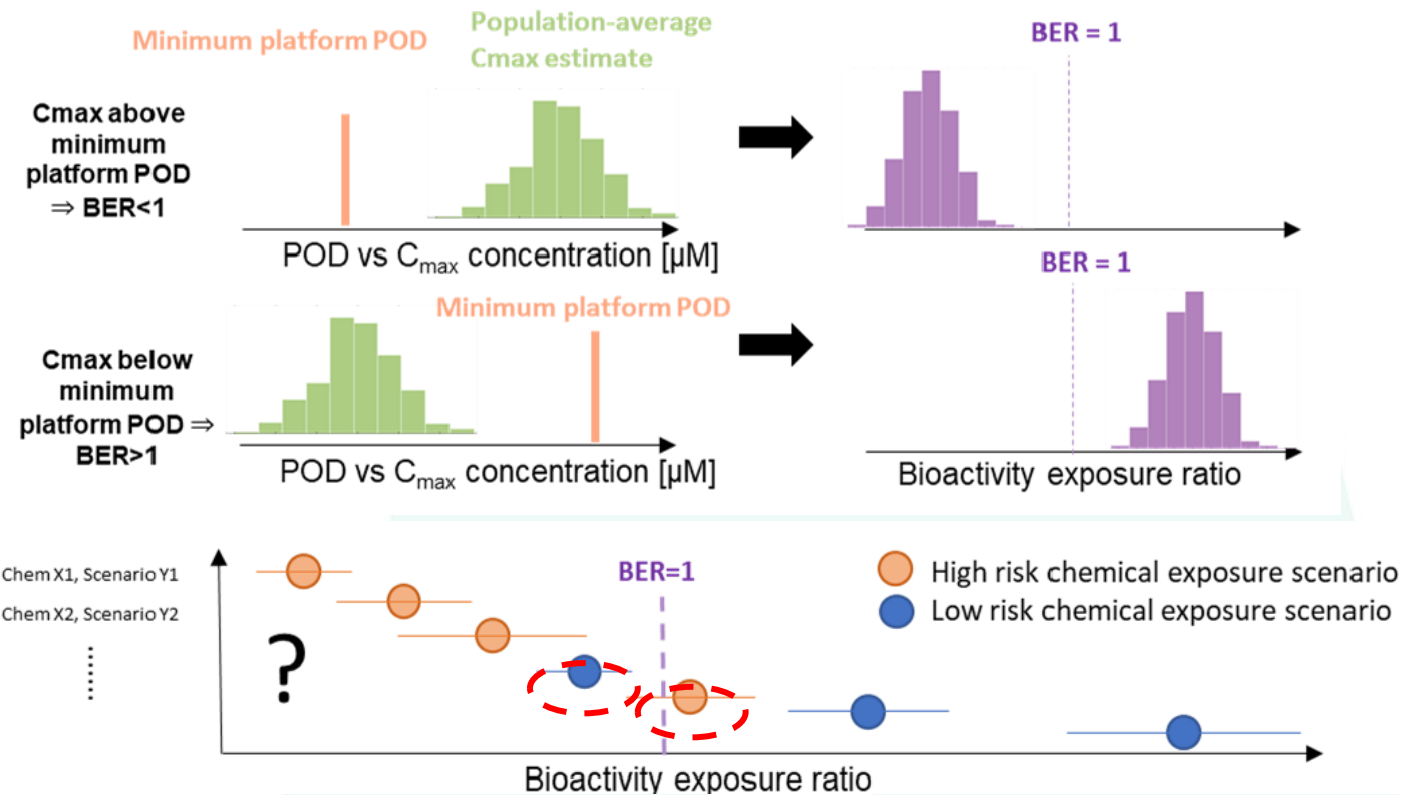
Step 1: Define Benchmark chemical-exposure scenarios

Chemical	Exposure scenario	Risk category
Chem X ₁	Scenario Y ₁	Low/High
...
Chem X _n	Scenario Y _m	Low/High

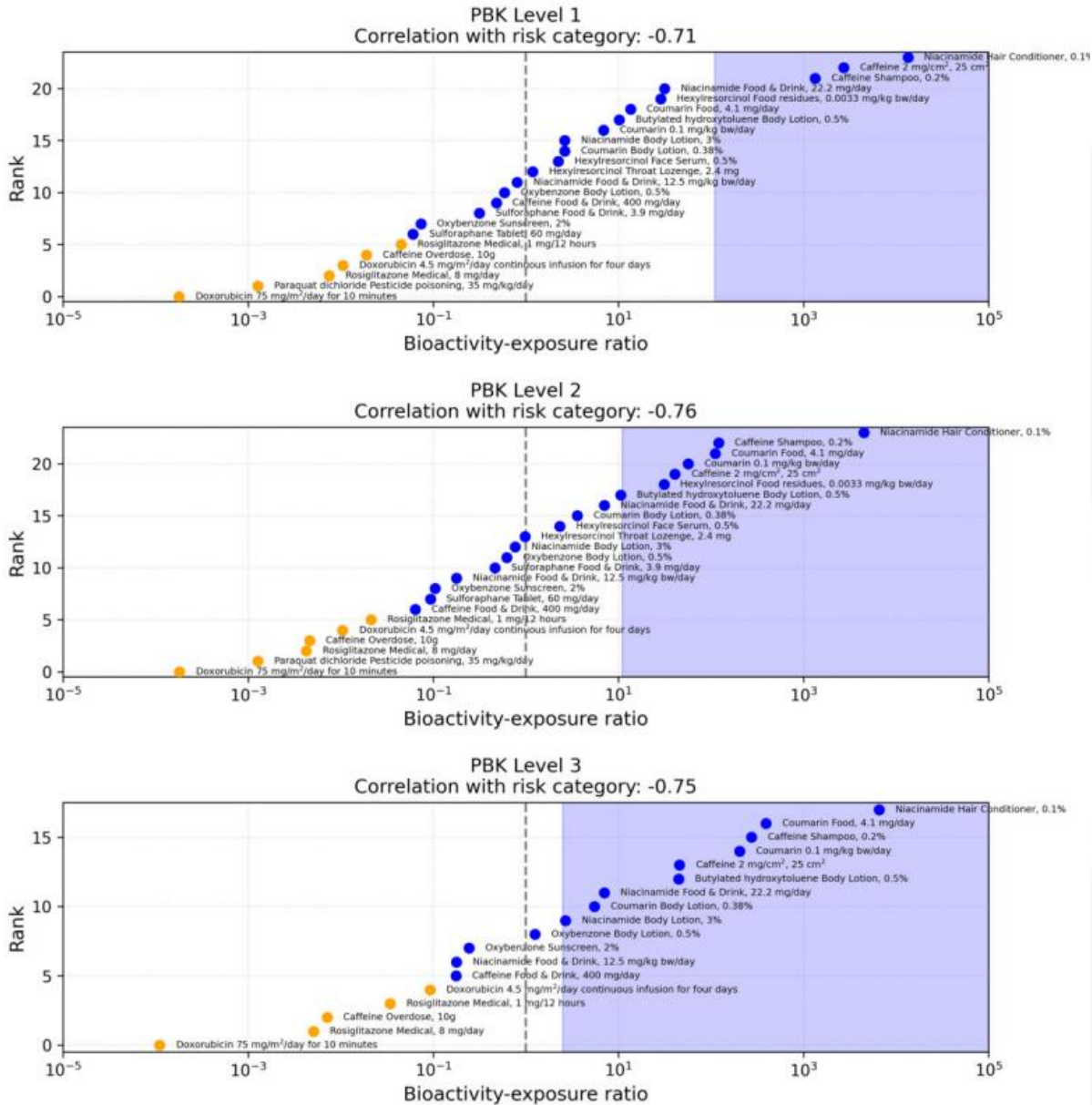
Step 2: Apply NAM tools to generate bioactivity and exposure data for PoD and Cmax estimation

Step 3: estimate minimum platform PoD and the Cmax to calculate the BER

Step 4: benchmark BER against risk category for each exposure scenario in Step 1



Example - evaluating protectiveness of safety assessment using non animal methods



Protectiveness: The proportion of high-risk scenarios not identified as low risk

Utility: The proportion of low-risk benchmark chemical scenarios correctly identified as such

PBK Level	Empirical Utility	Empirical Protectiveness
1	3/18 (17%)	6/6 (100%)
2	6/18 (33%)	6/6 (100%)
3	9/13 (69%)	5/5 (100%)

Discussion

- A number of computational methods have been applied to NGRA
- An example is briefly introduced which applies some of the methods above to demonstrate the protectiveness of systemic safety assessment using non animal methods
- In general, computational models are increasingly applied across different areas (bioactivity and exposure) within NGRA.
- We need to work hard to ensure methods are robust and acceptable



Acknowledgement

Nora Aptula
Maja Aleksic
Maria Baltazar
Trina Barritt
Danilo Basili
Sophie Cable
Paul Carmichael
Tom Cull
Matt Dent
Ellen Edwards
Julia Fentem
Nicky Gilmour
Steve Gutsell
Sarah Hatherell
Jade Houhton
Lucy Ingram
Predrag Kukic
Hequn Li

Mark Liddell
Keeley Mahwing
Sophie Malcomber
Deborah Martin
Gavin Maxwell
Alistair Middleton
Iris Muller
Beate Nicol
Claire Peart
Ruth Pendlington
Ramya Rajagopal
Georgia Reynolds
Joe Reynolds
Annabel Rigarlsford
Gordon Riley
Paul Russell
Andy Scott
Sharon Scott

Nikol Simecek
Wendy Simpson
Chris Sparham
Sandrine Spriggs
Charlotte Thorpe
Erica Vit
Andy White
Sam Windebank